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CV 10 - 3834

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

COBBLE HILL HEALTH CENTER, INC.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT ED.N.Y

COMPLAINT

BROOKLYN OFFICE

Case No.:

WEINSTEIN, J

POLLAK M.J

Plaintiff, Cobble Hill Health Center, Inc. ("Cobble Hill"), by its attorneys, Tarter Krinsky & Drogin LLP, as and for its complaint (the "Complaint") against defendant Safeco Insurance Company of America ("Safeco"), alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. In this action, Cobble Hill seeks to recover approximately \$500,000.00 in monetary damages, together with interest thereon, on account of Safeco's failure to perform under a performance surety bond issued in connection with a construction project owned by Cobble Hill. By virtue of the failure of Safeco and its principal to complete the project and perform under the terms of the performance bond and the construction management agreement, Cobble Hill's project remains incomplete, subcontractors remain unpaid and numerous mechanics' liens have been filed against the property.

THE PARTIES

2. Cobble Hill is a not-for-profit corporation formed and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with a place of business at 380 Henry Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201.

under the laws of the State of Washington, with a place of business at 1200 MacArthur Blvd., Upon information and belief, Safeco is an insurance company formed and existing

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DURISDICTION AND VENUE

- Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(2), venue lies in the Eastern District of New .ζ has diversity jurisdiction over this action. exclusive of interest and costs, the sum of \$75,000.00. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, this court place of business located in a state other than New York. The amount in controversy exceeds, business located in New York. Safeco is a Washington insurance company with its principal Cobble Hill is a New York not-for-profit corporation with its principal place of ٠,
- substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Cobble Hill's claims occurred in that York because Cobble Hill's principal place of business is located in that district, and a

EVCL2

- management agreement (the " Δ greement") with Cauldwell Wingate Company, LLC (" $\overline{\text{CW}}$ "). In connection with the Project, Cobble Hill entered into a construction .7 commonly known as 822 Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11221 (the " $\overline{\text{Project}}$ "). Cobble Hill is the owner of a certain construction project located on real property
- CW's performance under the Agreement to Cobble Hill. A copy of the Bond is annexed hereto performance bond, Safeco Bond No. 6554306 (the "Bond"), guaranteeing, jointly and severally,

On or about July 9, 2008, Safeco, as surety, and CW, as principal, issued a

as Exhibit A.

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district.

Mahwah, New Jersey 07430.

- 9. In or about March 2010, CW defaulted under the Agreement by, *inter alia*, filing mechanics' liens against the Project for sums not properly payable to CW, failing to construct the Project in a manner compliant with applicable building codes and regulations, failing to provide necessary commissioning materials for building systems and failing to obtain necessary signoffs from governmental agencies, including the New York City Department of Buildings. Moreover, numerous construction defects exist at the Project, such as leaking around doors and windows due to defective or missing flashing and caulking, improperly located curb-cuts, improperly pitched floors and window sills, unlevel floors, and numerous other items of punchlist work.
- 10. As a result, the Project's architect has not issued a certificate of substantial completion for the Project, and accordingly, CW has failed to substantially complete the Project.
- 11. In addition, by virtue of CW's failure to pay subcontractors and material suppliers, additional mechanics' liens have been filed against the Project.
- 12. On or about May 18, 2010, Cobble Hill notified Safeco of CW's failure to perform under the Agreement and sought a conference with CW and Safeco to discuss methods of obtaining such performance under the Agreement.
- 13. In or about May 2010, a telephone conference was held between representatives of Cobble Hill, CW and Safeco to discuss methods of obtaining such performance under the Agreement.
- 14. On or about June 23, 2010, Cobble Hill declared a default by CW under the Agreement, and on or about July 2, 2010, CW's right to complete with work required under the Agreement was terminated.
- 15. On or about July 2, 2010, Cobble Hill notified Safeco that it agreed to pay Safeco all unpaid sums properly payable under the Agreement in accordance with the terms thereof.

- 16. Pursuant to Paragraph 4 of the Bond, upon these notifications to Safeco, Safeco was obligated to undertake performance of CW's obligations under the Agreement and the completion of the Project.
- 17. On or about July 13, 2010, Cobble Hill notified Safeco of its failure to perform under the terms of the Bond, and that should Safeco fail to perform thereunder within fifteen days, it would be in default of its obligations to Cobble Hill.
 - 18. To date, Safeco has failed to perform under the Bond.

COUNT ONE (Breach of Contract)

- 19. Cobble Hill repeats, restates and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "18" of this Complaint as if set forth herein.
- 20. Cobble Hill has performed all of its obligations under the Agreement and the Bond, including payment for all amounts properly due and owing to CW or Safeco and providing requisite notices to CW and Safeco.
- 21. Safeco has breached its obligations to Cobble Hill under the Bond by failing to perform thereunder.
- 22. As a result of Safeco's breach, Cobble Hill has been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial, but reasonably believed to be at least \$500,000.00.
- 23. By reason of the foregoing, Safeco is liable to Cobble Hill in an amount to be proven at trial, but reasonably believed to be at least \$500,000.00.

(Bad Faith)

24. Cobble Hill repeats, restates and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "23" of this Complaint as if set forth herein.

- 25. Safeco has a duty under the Bond to provide Cobble Hill with the performance of CW's obligations under the Agreement.
- 26. The failure and refusal of Safeco to provide Cobble Hill with performance of its obligations under the Bond is wrongful and a breach of its obligations thereunder.
- 27. Further, Safeco acted in bad faith with regard to its obligations to Cobble Hill and violated the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing in the performance of its duties and obligations under the Bond, in that Safeco failed and refused to provide its performance thereunder without justification and in disregard of its undertakings.
- 28. The refusal by Safeco to perform under the Bond was without good cause and made in bad faith.
- 29. As a direct and proximate consequence of the foregoing, Cobble Hill has been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial, but reasonably believed to be at least \$500,000.00.
- 30. In addition, based on Safeco's bad faith conduct, Cobble Hill is entitled to punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 31. By reason of the foregoing, Safeco is liable to Cobble Hill in an amount to be proven at trial, but reasonably believed to be at least \$500,000.00, along with punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

WHEREFORE, Cobble Hill demands judgment against Safeco as follows:

- (1) On Count One, in an amount to be proven at trial, but reasonably believed to be at least \$500,000.00;
- (2) On Count Two, in an amount to be proven at trial, but reasonably believed to be at least \$500,000.00, along with punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial;
 - (3) The costs and disbursements of this action; and

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(4) Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York August 18, 2010

TARTER KRINSKY & DROGIN LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

David J. Pfeffer (DP-1317)

1350 Broadway

New York, New York 10018

(212) 216-8000

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



Bond No. 6554306

AIA Document A312

Any singular reference to Contractor, Surety, Owner or othe	
CONTRACTOR (Name and Address):	SURETY (Name and Principal Place of Business):
Cauldwell Wingate Company, LLC 380 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10168 OWNER (Name and Address):	Safeco Insurance Company of America 1200 MacArthur Blvd. Mahwah, NJ 07430
Cobble Hill Health Center Inc. 380 Henry Street Brooklyn, NY 11201	
Description (Name and Location): Construction of 2 S Lexington Avenue, Brooklyn, NY BOND Date (Not earlier than Construction Contract Date): Jul	
CONTRACTOR AS PRINCIPAL Company: (Corporate Seal) Cauldwell Wingate Company, LLC	SURETY Company: (Corporate Seal) Safeco Insurance Company of America
Signature: Name and Title: ALAN HAINES, CIO. (Any additional signatures appear on page 3)	Signature: Name and Title: Fred Nicholson Attorney-in-Fact
(FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Name, Address and Telephone) AGENT or BROKER: Allied Group Holdings, Inc. 390 North Broadway Jericho, NY 11753-2110 516-733-9200	OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE (Architect, Engineer or other party):

AIA DOCUMENT A312 • PERFORMANCE BOND AND PAYMENT BOND • DECEMBER 1984 ED. • AIA @ THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, 1735 NEW YORK AVE., N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 THIRD PRINTING . MARCH 1987

- 1 The Contractor and the Surety, jointly and severally, bind themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns to the Owner for the performance of the Construction Contract, which is incorporated herein by reference.
- 2 If the Contractor performs the Construction Contract, the Surety and the Contractor shall have no obligation under this Bond, except to participate in conferences as provided in Subparagraph 3.1.
- 3 If there is no Owner Default, the Surety's obligation under this Bond shall arise after:
 - 3.1 The Owner has notified the Contractor and the Surety at its address described in Paragraph 10 below that the Owner is considering declaring a Contractor Default and has requested and attempted to arrange a conference with the Contractor and the Surety to be held not later than fifteen days after receipt of such notice to discuss methods of performing the Construction Contract. If the Owner, the Contractor and the Surety agree, the Contractor shall be allowed a reasonable time to perform the Construction Contract, but such an agreement shall not waive the Owner's right, if any, subsequently to declare a Contractor Default; and
 - 3.2 The Owner has declared a Contractor Default and formally terminated the Contractor's right to complete the contract. Such Contractor Default shall not be declared earlier than twenty days after the Contractor and the Surety have received notice as provided in Subparagraph 3.1; and
 - 3.3 The Owner has agreed to pay the Balance of the Contract Price to the Surety in accordance with the terms of the Construction Contract or to a contractor selected to perform the Construction Contract in accordance with the terms of the contract with the Owner.
- 4 When the Owner has satisfied the conditions of Paragraph 3, the Surety shall promptly and at the Surety's expense take one of the following actions:
 - 4.1 Arrange for the Contractor, with consent of the Owner, to perform and complete the Construction Contract; or
 - 4.2 Undertake to perform and complete the Construction Contract itself, through its agents or through independent contractors; or
 - 4.3 Obtain bids or negotiated proposals from qualified contractors acceptable to the Owner for a contract for performance and completion of the Construction Contract, arrange for a contract to be prepared for execution by the Owner and the contractor selected with the Owner's concurrence, to be secured with performance and payment bonds executed by a qualified surety equivalent to the bonds issued on the Construction Contract, and pay to the Owner the amount of damages as described in Paragraph 6 in excess of the Balance of the Contract Price incurred by the Owner resulting from the Contractor's default; or
 - 4.4 Waive its right to perform and complete, arrange for completion, or obtain a new contractor and with reasonable promptness under the circumstances:
 - .1 After investigation, determine the amount for

- which it may be liable to the Owner and, as soon as practicable after the amount is determined, tender payment therefor to the Owner; or
- .2 Deny liability in whole or in part and notify the Owner citing reasons therefor.
- 5 If the Surety does not proceed as provided in Paragraph 4 with reasonable promptness, the Surety shall be deemed to be in default on this Bond fifteen days after receipt of an additional written notice from the Owner to the Surety demanding that the Surety perform its obligations under this Bond, and the Owner shall be entitled to enforce any remedy available to the Owner. If the Surety proceeds as provided in Subparagraph 4.4, and the Owner refuses the payment tendered or the Surety has denied liability, in whole or in part, without further notice the Owner shall be entitled to enforce any remedy available to the Owner.
- 6 After the Owner has terminated the Contractor's right to complete the Construction Contract, and if the Surety elects to act under Subparagraph 4.1, 4.2, or 4.3 above, then the responsibilities of the Surety to the Owner shall not be greater than those of the Contractor under the Construction Contract, and the responsibilities of the Owner to the Surety shall not be greater than those of the Owner under the Construction Contract. To the limit of the amount of this Bond, but subject to commitment by the Owner of the Balance of the Contract Price to mitigation of costs and damages on the Construction Contract, the Surety is obligated without duplication for:
 - 6.1 The responsibilities of the Contractor for correction of defective work and completion of the Construction Contract;
 - 6.2 Additional legal, design professional and delay costs resulting from the Contractor's Default, and resulting from the actions or failure to act of the Surety under Paragraph 4; and
 - 6.3 Liquidated damages, or if no liquidated damages are specified in the Construction Contract, actual damages caused by delayed performance or non-performance of the Contractor.
- 7 The Surety shall not be liable to the Owner or others for obligations of the Contractor that are unrelated to the Construction Contract, and the Balance of the Contract Price shall not be reduced or set off on account of any such unrelated obligations. No right of action shall accrue on this Bond to any person or entity other than the Owner or its heirs, executors, administrators or successors.
- 8 The Surety hereby waives notice of any change, including changes of time, to the Construction Contract or to related subcontracts, purchase orders and other obligations.
- 9 Any proceeding, legal or equitable, under this Bond may be instituted in any court of competent jurisdiction in the location in which the work or part of the work is located and shall be instituted within two years after Contractor Default or within two years after the Contractor ceased working or within two years after the Surety refuses or fails to perform its obligations under this Bond, whichever occurs first. If the provisions of this Paragraph are void or prohibited by law, the minimum period of limitation avail-

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able to sureties as a defense in the jurisdiction of the suit shall be applicable.

- 10 Notice to the Surety, the Owner or the Contractor shall be mailed or delivered to the address shown on the signature page.
- 11 When this Bond has been furnished to comply with a statutory or other legal requirement in the location where the construction was to be performed, any provision in this Bond conflicting with said statutory or legal requirement shall be deemed deleted herefrom and provisions conforming to such statutory or other legal requirement shall be deemed incorporated herein. The intent is that this Bond shall be construed as a statutory bond and not as a common law bond.

12 DEFINITIONS

12.1 Balance of the Contract Price: The total amount payable by the Owner to the Contractor under the Construction Contract after all proper adjustments have been made, including allowance to the Con-

- tractor of any amounts received or to be received by the Owner in settlement of insurance or other claims for damages to which the Contractor is entitled, reduced by all valid and proper payments made to or on behalf of the Contractor under the Construction Contract.
- 12.2 Construction Contract: The agreement between the Owner and the Contractor identified on the signature page, including all Contract Documents and changes thereto.
- 12.3 Contractor Default: Failure of the Contractor, which has neither been remedied nor waived, to perform or otherwise to comply with the terms of the Construction Contract.
- 12.4 Owner Default: Failure of the Owner, which has neither been remedied nor waived, to pay the Contractor as required by the Construction Contract or to perform and complete or comply with the other terms thereof.

MODIFICATIONS TO THIS BOND ARE AS FOLLOWS:

This bond is subject to the terms and conditions of the attached Rider.

(Space is provided below for additional	il signatures of added par	ties, other than those appearing	on the cover page.)
CONTRACTOR AS PRINCIPAL Company:	(Corporate Seal)	SURETY Company:	(Corporate Seal)
Signature: Name and Title: Address:		Signature: Name and Title: Address:	



Safeco Insurance Companies Safeco Plaza Seattle, WA 98185

	MULTIPLE OBLIGEE RIDER TO PERFOR	MANCE BOND	BOND# 6554306
	REAS, Heretofore, on or about the	DAY OF	
	referred to as Principal, entered into a writte	en agreement with Cobbl	e Hill Health Center Inc.
		, hereinafter referred	to as Original Obligee, for the construction
f 2 Story P	suilding (Adult Day Care) located at 822 Lexing	ton Avenue, Brooklyn, NY	
			, and
WHE	REAS, the Principal and the Safeco Insuranc	e Company of America	, a Washington corporation
	nd delivered to the Original Obligee their joi REAS, Bank of America, N.A., 1111 East Mai		
			, hereinafter,
execution a	as Additional Obligees, have requested and delivery of this Rider, and the Principal and THEREFORE, in consideration of one dologed, the undersigned agree that the said Pe	and Surety have agreed s llar and other good and	so to do upon the conditions herein stated. valuable consideration, receipt of which is
1.	The names of Bank of America, N.A., 111		
	Additional Obligees, shall be added to sa	id bond as named Oblige	ees. , as
2.	of them, shall make payments to the Pi	rincipal strictly in according to be per	y of them, unless the said Obligees, or any ance with the terms of said contract as to formed under said contract at the time and g binding on the other.
3.	The aggregate liability of the Surety until their interests may appear, is limited to the		iginal Obligee and Additional Obligees, a bond.
4.	The Surety, as its option, may make an Obligee and Additional Obligees.	y payment under said b	ond by check issued jointly to the Origina
5.	The purpose of this Rider is to add Add and conditions of this bond.	itional Obligees only and	is not intended to affect or alter the term
	Pa	age 1 of 2 Pages	

signed, sealed and dated this 9th day of	July 2008 .
Seal if corporation)	Cobble Hill Health Center Inc.
2-15	By Andles:
Seal if corporation)	Bank of America, N.A.
	Additional Oblige
Seal if corporation) Attest	ву
	Additional Oblige
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Safeco Insurance Company of America	Caldwell Wingate Company, LLC Princip
Attomey-in-Fact Fred Nicholson	By ARAN HAINES, CIO
Optional Counter Signature Area	SEAL SEAL SE

S-4644/SA 10/99

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR CONTRACTOR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR CONTRACTOR, IF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

TATE OF <u>New York,</u>)	
OUNTY OF, ()	
ON THEDAY OF <u>July</u> 20 <u>08,</u> BEFORE ME PERSONALLY APPEA	RED
TO ME KNOWN AND KNOWN TO ME TO BE	THE
OF Cauldwell Wingate Company, LLC A LIMI	TED
IABILITY COMPANY, DESCRIBED IN AND WHO EXECUTED THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT A	۸ND
CKNOWLEDGED TO ME THAT (S)HE EXECUTED THE SAME AS AND FOR THE ACT AND D	EED
OF SAID LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.	
AAAAAAAAAAA	
KIN K TAM cotary Public Notary Public N	
No. 01TA6084518 NOTALLY PUBLIC Qualified in Queens County	
My Commission Expires 12/09/2010	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SURETY

STATE OF NEW YORK,)
COUNTY OF Nassau,)

ON THE 9th DAY OF July, 2008, BEFORE ME PERSONALLY CAME Fred Nicholson TO ME KNOWN, WHO, BEING BY ME DULY SWORN, DID DEPOSE AND SAY THAT (S)HE RESIDES AT Nassau County, NY THAT (S)HE IS THE ATTORNEY-IN-FACT OF Safeco Insurance Company of America THE CORPORATION DESCRIBED IN AND WHICH EXECUTED THE ABOVE INSTRUMENT; THAT (S)HE KNOWS THE SEAL OF SAID CORPORATION; THAT ONE OF THE SEALS AFFIXED TO THE FOREFGOING INSTRUMENT IS SUCH SEAL; THAT IT WAS SO AFFIXED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SAID CORPORATION; AND THAT (S)HE SIGNED HIS/HER NAME THERETO BY LIKE ORDER.

FERN PERRY
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
No. 01PE4982178

Notary Public

Qualified in Nassau County Commission Expires May 28, 20



POWER OF ATTORNEY

Safeco Insurance Company of America General Insurance Company of America Safeco Plaza Seattle, WA 98185

1	KN	OW	Δ1 1	RY	THESE	PRES	ENTS.
ı	NI	UTT	MLL	D 1	INESE	FRED	CRIA

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That SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, each a Washington corporation, does each hereby appoint

*********GEORGE O. BREWSTER; THERESA J. FOLEY; DAVID A. GOLDSTEIN; WILLIAM A. MARINO; FRED NICHOLSON; FERN PERRY; NANCY SCHNEE; VINCENT A. WALSH; Jericho, New York********

its true and lawful attorney(s)-in-fact, with full authority to execute on its behalf fidelity and surety bonds or undertakings and other documents of a similar character issued in the course of its business, and to bind the respective company thereby.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA have each executed and attested these presents

11th December 2007 day of STEPHANIE DALEY-WATSON, SECRETARY TIM MIKOLAJEWSKI, SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT, SURETY CERTIFICATE

> Extract from the By-Laws of SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and of GÉNERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA:

"Article V, Section 13. - FIDELITY AND SURETY BONDS ... the President, any Vice President, the Secretary, and any Assistant Vice President appointed for that purpose by the officer in charge of surety operations, shall each have authority to appoint individuals as attorneys-in-fact or under other appropriate titles with authority to execute on behalf of the company fidelity and surety bonds and other documents of similar character issued by the company in the course of its business... On any instrument making or evidencing such appointment, the signatures may be affixed by facsimile. On any instrument conferring such authority or on any bond or undertaking of the company, the seal, or a facsimile thereof, may be impressed or affixed or in any other manner reproduced; provided, however, that the seal shall not be necessary to the validity of any such instrument or undertaking."

> Extract from a Resolution of the Board of Directors of SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and of GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA adopted July 28, 1970.

*On any certificate executed by the Secretary or an assistant secretary of the Company setting out, (i) The provisions of Article V, Section 13 of the By-Laws, and

- (ii) A copy of the power-of-attorney appointment, executed pursuant thereto, and
- (iii) Certifying that said power-of-attorney appointment is in full force and effect,

the signature of the certifying officer may be by facsimile, and the seal of the Company may be a facsimile thereof."

I. Stephanie Daley-Watson , Secretary of SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA and of GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA, do hereby certify that the foregoing extracts of the By-Laws and of a Resolution of the Board of Directors of these corporations, and of a Power of Attorney issued pursuant thereto, are true and correct, and that both the By-Laws, the Resolution and the Power of Attorney are still in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the facsimile seal of said corporation

day of <u>JUI - 9 2008</u>





STEPHANIE DALEY-WATSON, SECRETARY

Safeco® and the Safeco logo are registered trademarks of Safeco Corporation.

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S-0974/DS 4/05



SAFECO INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA

FINANCIAL STATEMENT — DECEMBER 31, 2007

Assets	Liabilities		
Cash and Bank Deposits \$ 53.483.126	Unearned Premiums \$ 728,534,002		
*Bonds — U.S Government	Reserve for Claims and Claims Expense		
*Other Bonds	Reserve for Dividends to Policyholders		
*Stocks	Additional Statutory Reserve		
Real Estate	Reserve for Commissions, Taxes and Other Liabilities936.336.881		
•	Total		
Accrued Interest and Rents 33,936,490	Special Surplus Funds \$ 226,334		
Other Admitted Assets	Paid in Surplus		
	Unassigned Surplus		
Total Admitted Assets	Surplus to Policyholders		
	Total Liabilities and Surplus		



* Bonds are stated at amortized or investment value; Stocks at Association Market Values. Securities carried at \$124.368.976 are deposited as required by law.

I, TIM MIKOLAJEWSKI, Senior Vice-President of SAFECO Insurance Company of America, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, and correct statement of the Assets and Liabilities of said Corporation, as of December 31, 2007, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Corporation at Seattle, Washington, this 1st day of March. 2008.

Senior Vice-Preside

@ A registered trademark of SAFECO Corporation

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